

KARNAL BUNT STRATEGIC PLAN
OVERCOMING KARNAL BUNT AS A QUARANTINE PEST
WHILE PRESERVING EXPORT MARKETS
FY 2004 – 2007

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Introduction

On February 26, 2002, USDA finalized “A Strategic Framework for the Karnal Bunt Program: Critical issues and Next Steps Toward Deregulation While Preserving Export Markets.” This document outlined critical issues that would need to be addressed to overcome KB as a pest of quarantine concern from information gleaned from the October 31 and November 1, 2001, Karnal Bunt Workshop, gathered from Federal and state cooperators, producers, handlers, and exporters. The framework document states, “participants were unanimous in their opinion that USDA must undertake the challenge of overcoming the classification of KB as a quarantine pest (deregulation) while preserving wheat export markets.” This document, “Karnal Bunt Strategic Plan: Overcoming Karnal Bunt as a Quarantine Pest While Preserving Export Markets,” describes activities to be undertaken and accomplished towards the goal of overcoming Karnal bunt as a quarantine pest.

The strategic plan received Departmental approval on August 8, 2002. Accomplishment reports for 2002 and 2003 are shown in Appendix I and II respectively

During the next 3 years the success for removing domestic regulations for Karnal bunt will hinge on a number of key areas of cooperation and support. These areas include continued commitment by USDA, willingness of the U.S. and its foreign trading partners to modify their entry requirements, agreement among the states not to implement exterior quarantines, producer, handler, and export industry support, and willingness to accept the loss of some export markets.

To meet the annual targets that have been established task accountability and coordination by issue leaders are critical. This coordination will be provided through the USDA Karnal Bunt Coordinator for policy issues with continual communication with cooperators and stakeholders. An incremental approach for overcoming KB as a quarantine pest will require patience, requiring USDA action and stakeholder support. The strategic plan is a dynamic document with annual assessment of the strategy and accomplishments and development of “mid-stream” corrections (if necessary) to assure it remains on-track. It is understood that activities in the plan are interrelated and require linkages with the other plan’s components.

Each Karnal bunt activity or initiative undertaken should contribute to reaching the stated FY 2007 goal. Federal, state, and stakeholder decision makers should assess every decision and any proposed action in connection with Karnal bunt, including decisions on compensation and research, based on whether it would contribute to overcoming KB as a quarantine pest. Actions that would not contribute to this goal by Federal, state, and stakeholder decision makers should not be undertaken.

The following outlines the annual goals of the Karnal Bunt Strategic Plan: Overcoming Karnal Bunt as a Quarantine Pest While Preserving Export Markets:”

FY 2002- Initiate and or complete FY 2002 actions.

FY 2003- Complete negotiation with 25% of the foreign trading partners to remove additional declaration restrictions or 25% of the grain trade requiring the additional declarations

FY 2004- Complete negotiation with 50% of the foreign trading partners to remove additional declaration restrictions or 50% of the grain trade requiring the additional declaration.

FY 2005- Complete discussions with category 1 trading partners and final discussions with remaining categories

FY 2006- Complete discussions with countries in categories 2-5

FY 2007- Rescind USDA quarantine regulations for Karnal bunt

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Goal: FY 2004- Complete negotiation with 50% of the foreign trading partners to remove additional declaration restrictions or 50% of trade requiring the additional declaration.

Year three of the strategic plan will focus on continuing discussions with category one trading partners to reduce the number of countries requiring the additional declaration; expanding discussions with category two and three countries; initiating discussions with category four and five countries; continuation of research initiatives; initiatives with international organizations, i.e. North American Plant Protection Organization will continue; and initiate the assessment process for the rulemaking process for deregulation. Effective and factual communication with trading partners and industry stakeholders will remain critical through the plan.

ISSUE/LEADER/ACTIONS	TEAM	DATE
<p>Coordination: Dr. Chuck Lambert, Deputy Under Secretary, Marketing and Regulatory Programs</p> <p>1. Summarize and prepare a report of 2003 accomplishments. Matt Royer (PPQ)</p> <p>2. Coordinate an annual assessment of the strategy to assure that the strategy is on track and coordinate preparation of adjustments to the strategic plan. Matt Royer (PPQ)</p> <p>3. Ensure succession planning for position of Kernal Bunt Program Coordinator. Dr. Chuck Lambert (MRP)</p>	<p>1. USDA Task Force, NPB, NASDA</p> <p>2. USDA Task Force, NPB</p> <p>3. USDA Task Force</p>	<p>1. 1st Quarter</p> <p>2. 2nd Quarter</p> <p>3. 3rd Quarter</p>
<p>Communication: Meghan Thomas, Public Affairs, Legislative and Public Affairs, APHIS</p> <p>1. Schedule industry and Hill briefings. USDA Mission Areas</p> <p>2. Participate in National, Regional, and local industry meetings to provide information about the pathogen, disease etiology, and program activities. USDA Mission Areas</p> <p>3. Maintain public relations rapid response capability to deal with emerging issues. Meghan Thomas (LPA)</p> <p>4. Maintain KB websites. Joel Floyd (PPQ), Meghan Thomas (LPA)</p> <p>5. Maintain Hotline [1-888-661-8083]. Matt Royer (PPQ)</p> <p>6. Coordinate with States, industry public relations organizations, trade associations in the development and distribution of news release information. Meghan Thomas (LPA)</p> <p>7. Maintain system for 1) timely and effective information sharing, 2) ensuring stakeholder collaboration and cooperation including fact sheets, and public service announcements. Meghan Thomas (LPA)</p>	<p>1. USDA, cooperators, and stakeholders</p> <p>2. USDA, cooperators, and stakeholders</p> <p>3. APHIS-LPA</p> <p>4. APHIS-PPQ & LPA</p> <p>5. APHIS-PPQ</p> <p>6. APHIS-LPA</p> <p>7. APHIS-LPA</p>	<p>1. Ongoing</p> <p>2. Ongoing</p> <p>3. Ongoing</p> <p>4. Ongoing</p> <p>5. Ongoing</p> <p>6. Ongoing</p> <p>7. Ongoing</p>

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<p><u>International Activities:</u> Robert Reimenschneider, Director, Grain and Feed Division, Foreign Agricultural Service</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue negotiations, both official and industry with the government and industry representatives to include all countries in the first category. Robert Reimenschneider (FAS) 2. Expand communication/negotiations both official and industry with the government and industry representatives with countries in categories two and three. Robert Reimenschneider (FAS) 3. Initiate communication/negotiations both official and industry with the government and industry representatives with countries in the categories four and five. Robert Reimenschneider (FAS) 4. Participate in international meetings to provide KB information and updates and emphasize that KB is a minor pest of no quarantine significance. i.e. NAPPO. 5. Maintain effective phytosanitary certification program to meet importing country's phytosanitary requirements. Cathy Enright (PPQ) 6. Continue evaluations of alternatives to the area freedom concept to facilitate the export of wheat, such as systems approach to "area freedom" to meet importing countries requirements. Scott Redlin (PPQ) 7. Develop strategies to address import concerns of specific countries, including identification of research results needed to support the targeted strategies. Robert Reimenschneider (FAS) 8. Continue dialog and conclude negotiations with Mexico to harmonize KB restrictions. Cathy Enright (PPQ) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FAS, APHIS-PPQ&IS 2. FAS, APHIS-PPQ&IS 3. FAS, APHIS-IS 4. USDA 5. PPQ-PIM 6. Kitty Cardwell (CSREES), Rick Bennett (ARS) 7. FAS, APHIS-IS 8. FAS, APHIS-PPQ & IS 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ongoing 2. 1st Quarter 3. 1st Quarter 4. Ongoing 5. Ongoing 6. 2nd Quarter 7. 2nd Quarter 8. 2nd Quarter
<p><u>National Activities:</u> Mike Stefan, Director, SEPPC (PPQ)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Regulations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Publish compensation regulation changes. 2. Publish Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for rescinding 7CFR301.89. 3. Continue discussions with NASDA and NPB to obtain agreement regarding the implementation of exterior state quarantines for KB. Bobby Acord (APHIS) 4. Expedite publication in CFR of changes to 7CFR319.59 (import regulations) to harmonize with 7CFR301.89 (domestic quarantine) (Docket number 02-057-1). Matt Royer/Wayne Burnett (PPQ). 5. Publish regulation revising regulated areas in California and Arizona. Matt Royer (PPQ) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. APHIS-PPD 2. APHIS-PPD 3. APHIS-PPQ 4. APHIS-PPD 5. APHIS-PPD 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2nd Quarter 2. 2nd Quarter 3. Ongoing 4. 2nd Quarter 5. 2nd Quarter

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Operations		
6. Revise the National Survey Plan to incorporate information obtained from technological advances. Lynn Evans-Goldner (PPQ)	6. APHIS-PPQ	6. 1 st Quarter
7. Conduct review of USDA Karnal Bunt Website and update as needed to accurately reflect the mission and goals of the Karnal Bunt Strategic Plan and to incorporate new information about KB. Bob Spaide (PPQ)	7. APHIS-PPQ&LPA, cooperators	7. 3 rd Quarter
Scientific Support: Rick Bennett, National Program Leader, ARS		
1. Continue to be the repository for cataloging existing risk assessments and clearing house to provide advice and guidance for PRA development. Ron Sequeira (PPQ-CPHST)	1. Rick Bennett (ARS), Kitty Cardwell (CSREES), Gary Volke (ERS)	1. Ongoing
2. Develop and distribute best management practices for Texas, Arizona, and California. Kitty Cardwell (CSREES)	2. Rick Bennett (ARS), Scott Redlin (PPQ)	2. Ongoing
3. Evaluate relevance of completing risk assessment using climatological models to determine host range characteristics for KB. Ron Sequeira (PPQ-CPHST)	3. Rick Bennett (ARS), Kitty Cardwell (CSREES)	3. 4 th Quarter
4. Complete studies to develop information needed to establish field spore threshold limits and geographical range limits for the disease. Rick Bennett (ARS)	4. ARS, Scott Redlin (PPQ)	4. 4 th Quarter
5. Complete studies to develop information regarding the viability and longevity of teliospores in soil. Rick Bennett (ARS)	5. ARS, Scott Redlin (PPQ)	5. 4 th Quarter
6. Complete studies to develop information to identify optimal temperature/humidity requirements for teliospore development. Rick Bennett (ARS)	6. ARS, Scott Redlin (PPQ)	6. 4 th Quarter
7. Continue work on the development of new, cost effective control methods, including post harvest treatments and seed treatments. Rick Bennett (ARS)	7. ARS, Scott Redlin (PPQ), to be determined	7. Ongoing
8. Cooperate with FAS and APHIS-IS to determine research needs and conduct studies in support of targeted strategies to address import concerns of specific countries. Rick Bennett (ARS)	8. ARS, Scott Redlin (PPQ)	8. Ongoing
9. Develop alternate seed/grain certification strategies. Rick Bennett (ARS)	9. ARS, Scott Redlin (PPQ)	9. 4 th Quarter
10. Identify quality thresholds to be used in the marketing of wheat assuming deregulation for KB. Rick Bennett (ARS)	10. ARS, Scott Redlin (PPQ)	10. 4 th Quarter
11. Review nodes of CPHST Pathway Analysis Risk Assessment for the spread of KB during wheat processing, considering input by wheat industry. Ron Sequeira (PPQ)	11. Rick Bennett (ARS), Kitty Cardwell (CSREES), industry	11. 3 rd Quarter
12. Conduct soil solarization pilot study. Ted Boratynski (PPQ), Kathy Kosta (CDFA)	12. ARS, CPHST (PPQ), CDFA	12. 4 th Quarter

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Goal FY 2005- Complete discussions with category one trading partners and final discussions with remaining categories

Year four of the strategic plan will focus on completing discussions with category one trading partners and final discussions with categories 2-5; reduction of research activities; participation with international organizations, i.e. North American Plant Protection Organization will continue; and continuation of the rulemaking process for deregulation. Effective and factual communication with trading partners and industry stakeholders will remain critical through the plan.

ISSUE/LEADER/ACTIONS	TEAM	DATE
<p>Coordination: Dr. Chuck Lambert, Deputy Under Secretary, Marketing and Regulatory Programs</p> <p>1. Summarize and prepare a report of 2004 accomplishments. Matt Royer (PPQ)</p> <p>2. Coordinate an annual assessment of the strategy to assure that the strategy is on track and coordinate preparation of adjustments to the strategic plan. Matt Royer (PPQ)</p>	<p>1. USDA Task Force, NPB, NASDA</p> <p>2. USDA Task Force, NPB</p>	<p>1. 1st Quarter</p> <p>2. 2nd Quarter</p>
<p>Communication: Meghan Thomas, Public Affairs, Legislative and Public Affairs, APHIS</p> <p>1. Schedule industry and Hill briefings. USDA Mission Areas</p> <p>2. Participate in National, Regional, and local industry meetings to provide information about the pathogen, disease etiology, and program activities. USDA Mission Areas</p> <p>3. Maintain public relations rapid response capability to deal with new outbreak issues. Meghan Thomas (LPA)</p> <p>4. Maintain KB websites. Joel Floyd (PPQ), Meghan Thomas (LPA)</p> <p>5. Maintain Hotline [1-888-661-8083] Matt Royer (PPQ)</p> <p>6. Coordinate with States, industry public relations organizations, trade associations in the development and distribution of news release information. Meghan Thomas (LPA)</p> <p>7. Maintain system for 1) timely and effective information sharing, 2) ensuring stakeholder collaboration and cooperation including fact sheets, and public service announcements. Meghan Thomas (LPA)</p> <p>8. Develop communication plan for deregulation announcement. Meghan Thomas (LPA)</p>	<p>1. USDA, cooperators, and stakeholders</p> <p>2. USDA, cooperators, and stakeholders</p> <p>3. APHIS-LPA</p> <p>4. APHIS-PPQ & LPA</p> <p>5. APHIS-PPQ</p> <p>6. APHIS-LPA</p> <p>7. APHIS- LPA</p> <p>8. LPA</p>	<p>1. Ongoing</p> <p>2. Ongoing</p> <p>3. Ongoing</p> <p>4. Ongoing</p> <p>5. Ongoing</p> <p>6. Ongoing</p> <p>7. Ongoing</p> <p>8. 4th Quarter</p>

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<p><u>International Activities:</u> Robert Reimenschneider, Director, Grain and Feed Division, Foreign Agricultural Service</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete negotiations, both official and industry with foreign government and industry representatives to include all countries in the first category. Robert Reimenschneider (FAS) 2. Continue communication/negotiations, both official and industry with the government and industry representatives with countries in categories two and three. Robert Reimenschneider (FAS) 3. Continue communication/negotiations, both official and industry with the government and industry representatives with countries in the in categories four and five. Robert Reimenschneider (FAS) 4. Participate in international meetings to provide KB information and updates and emphasize that KB is a minor disease of no quarantine significance. i.e. NAPPO. USDA Mission Areas 5. Maintain effective phytosanitary certification program to meet importing country's phytosanitary requirements. Cathy Enright (PPQ) 6. Complete evaluations of alternatives, such as systems approach to "area freedom" to meet importing countries requirements. Scott Redlin (PPQ) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FAS, APHIS-PPQ&IS, 2. FAS, APHIS-PPQ&IS, 3. FAS, APHIS-PPQ&IS 4. Task Force Agencies 5. SEPPC (PPQ) 6. Kitty Cardwell (CSREES), Rick Bennett (ARS) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 4th Quarter 2. Ongoing 3. Ongoing 4. Ongoing 5. Ongoing 6. 2nd Quarter
<p><u>National Activities:</u> Mike Stefan, Director, SEPPC (PPQ)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Compensation</p> <p>No actions proposed</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Regulations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete review and responses to comments received from publication of the Advanced Notice for Proposed Rulemaking. Matt Royer (PPQ) 2. Complete discussions with NASDA and NPB to obtain agreement not to implement exterior state quarantines for KB. Bobby Acord (APHIS) <p style="text-align: center;">Operations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Revise the National Survey Plan considering advances in equivalent management systems and best management practices. Michael Stefan (PPQ) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. APHIS-PPD 2. PPQ 3. SPRO, Rick Bennett (ARS) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2nd Quarter 2. 4th Quarter 3. 1st Quarter
<p><u>Scientific Support:</u> Rick Bennett, National Program Leader, ARS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to be the repository for cataloging existing risk assessments and clearing house to provide advice and guidance for PRA development. Ron Sequeira (PPQ-CPHST) 2. Update and distribute information for KB best management practices. Kitty Cardwell (CSREES) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rick Bennett (ARS), Kitty Cardwell (CSREES), Gary Volke (ERS) 2. Rick Bennett (ARS), Scott Redlin (PPQ) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ongoing 2. Ongoing

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3. Continue work on the development of new, cost effective control methods, including post harvest treatments and seed treatments. Rick Bennett (ARS)	3. ARS, Scott Redlin (PPQ), to be determined	3. Ongoing
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FY 2006- Complete discussions with country categories 2-5

Year five of the strategic plan will focus on completing discussions with the remaining country categories; participation with international organizations, i.e. North American Plant Protection Organization will continue; and continue the rulemaking process for overcoming KB as a quarantine pest. Effective and factual communication with trading partners and industry stakeholders will remain critical through the plan.

ISSUE/LEADER/ACTIONS	TEAM	DATE
<p><u>Coordination:</u> Dr. Chuck Lambert, Deputy Under Secretary, Marketing and Regulatory Programs</p> <p>1. Summarize and prepare a report of 2005 accomplishments. Matt Royer (PPQ)</p> <p>2. Coordinate an annual assessment of the strategy to assure that the strategy is on track and coordinate preparation of adjustments to the strategic plan. TBN</p>	<p>1. USDA Task Force, NPB, NASDA</p> <p>2. USDA Task Force, NPB</p>	<p>1. 1st. Quarter</p> <p>2. 2nd. Quarter</p>
<p><u>Communication:</u> Meghan Thomas, Director, Public Affairs, Legislative and Public Affairs, APHIS</p> <p>1. Schedule industry and Hill briefings. USDA Mission Areas</p> <p>2. Participate in National, Regional, and local industry meetings to provide information about the pathogen, disease etiology, and program activities. USDA Mission Areas</p> <p>3. Maintain public relations rapid response capability to deal with new outbreak issues. Meghan Thomas (LPA)</p> <p>4. Maintain KB websites. Joel Floyd (PPQ), Meghan Thomas (LPA)</p> <p>5. Maintain Hotline [1-888-661-8083] Matt Royer (PPQ)</p> <p>6. Coordinate with States, industry public relations organizations, trade associations in the development and distribution of news release information. Meghan Thomas (LPA)</p> <p>7. Maintain system for 1) timely and effective information sharing, 2) ensuring stakeholder collaboration and cooperation including fact sheets, and public service announcements. Meghan Thomas (LPA)</p> <p>8. Implement deregulation communication plan. Meghan Thomas (LPA)</p>	<p>1. USDA, cooperators, and stakeholders</p> <p>2. USDA, cooperators, and stakeholders</p> <p>3. APHIS-LPA</p> <p>4. APHIS-PPQ & LPA</p> <p>5. APHIS-PPQ</p> <p>6. APHIS-LPA</p> <p>7. APHIS- LPA</p> <p>8. APHIS-LPA</p>	<p>1. Ongoing</p> <p>2. Ongoing</p> <p>3. Ongoing</p> <p>4. Ongoing</p> <p>5. Ongoing</p> <p>6. Ongoing</p> <p>7. Ongoing</p> <p>8. 3rd Quarter</p>

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<p><u>International Activities:</u> Robert Reimenschneider, Director, Grain and Feed Division, Foreign Agricultural Service</p> <p>1. Complete communication/negotiations, both official and industry with the government and industry representatives with countries in the second and third categories. Robert Reimenschneider (FAS)</p> <p>2. Complete communication/negotiations, both official and industry with the government and industry representatives with countries in the in categories four and five. Robert Reimenschneider (FAS)</p> <p>3. Participate in international meetings to provide KB information and updates and emphasize that KB is not considered a pest of quarantine significance. i.e. NAPPO. USDA Mission Areas</p> <p>4. Maintain effective phytosanitary certification program to meet importing country's phytosanitary requirements. Cathy Enright (PPQ)</p>	<p>1. FAS, PPQ, APHIS-IS,</p> <p>2. FAS, APHIS-IS</p> <p>3. Task Force Agencies</p> <p>4. SEPPC (PPQ)</p>	<p>1. 4th Quarter</p> <p>2. 4th Quarter</p> <p>4. Ongoing</p> <p>5. Ongoing</p>
<p><u>National Activities:</u> Mike Stefan, Director, SEPPC (PPQ)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Compensation</p> <p>No actions proposed</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Regulations</p> <p>1. Prepare proposed rule to rescind 7CFR301.89. Michael Stefan (PPQ)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Operations</p> <p>2. Discontinue National Survey</p>	<p>1. APHIS-PPD</p>	<p>1. 1st Quarter</p>
<p><u>Scientific Support:</u> Rick Bennett, National Program Leader, ARS</p> <p>1. Continue to be the repository for cataloging existing risk assessments and clearing house to provide advice and guidance for PRA development. Ron Sequeira (PPQ)</p> <p>2. Update and distribute information for KB best management practices. Kitty Cardwell (CSREES)</p> <p>3. Complete work on the development of new, cost effective control methods, including post harvest treatments and seed treatments. Rick Bennett (ARS)</p>	<p>1. Rick Bennett (ARS), Kitty Cardwell (CSREES), Gary Volke (ERS)</p> <p>2. ARS, Scott Redlin (PPQ)</p> <p>3. ARS, Scott Redlin (PPQ), to be determined</p>	<p>1. Ongoing</p> <p>2. 3rd Quarter</p> <p>3. 4th Quarter</p>

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FY 2007- Rescind USDA quarantine regulations for Karnal bunt

Year six of the strategic plan will focus on completing the actions necessary to rescind 7CFR301.89. Effective and factual communication with trading partners and industry stakeholders will remain critical through the plan.

ISSUE/LEADER/ACTIONS	TEAM	DATE
<p>Coordination: Dr. Chuck Lambert, Deputy Under Secretary, Marketing and Regulatory programs</p> <p>1. Summarize and prepare a report of 2006 accomplishments. Matt Royer (PPQ)</p> <p>2. Coordinate the development of the final report. Matt Royer (PPQ)</p>	<p>1. USDA Task Force, NPB, NASDA</p> <p>2. USDA Task Force, NPB</p>	<p>1. 1st Quarter</p> <p>2. 2nd Quarter</p>
<p>Communication: Meghan Thomas, Public Affairs, Legislative and Public Affairs, APHIS</p> <p>1. Schedule industry and Hill briefings. USDA Mission Areas</p> <p>2. Participate in National, Regional, and local industry meetings to provide information about the pathogen, disease etiology, and program activities. USDA Mission Areas</p> <p>3. Maintain KB websites. Joel Floyd (PPQ), Meghan Thomas (LPA)</p> <p>4. Maintain Hotline [1-888-661-8083] Matt Royer (PPQ)</p> <p>5. Coordinate with States, industry public relations organizations, trade associations in the development and distribution of news release information. Meghan Thomas (LPA)</p> <p>6. Maintain system for 1) timely and effective information sharing, 2) ensuring stakeholder collaboration and cooperation including fact sheets, and public service announcements. Meghan Thomas (LPA)</p>	<p>1. USDA, cooperators, and stakeholders</p> <p>2. USDA, cooperators, and stakeholders</p> <p>3. APHIS-PPQ & LPA</p> <p>4. APHIS-PPQ</p> <p>5. APHIS-LPA, Elizabeth Hill (FSA-DAFP)</p> <p>6. APHIS- LPA</p>	<p>1. Ongoing</p> <p>2. Ongoing</p> <p>3. Ongoing</p> <p>4. 4th Quarter</p> <p>5. Ongoing</p> <p>6. Ongoing</p>
<p>International Activities: Robert Reimenschneider, Director, Grain and Feed Division, Foreign Agricultural Service</p> <p>1. Continue to monitor international concerns about KB. Robert Reimenschneider (FAS)</p>	<p>1. Cathy Enright (PPQ), APHIS-IS</p>	<p>1. Ongoing</p>
<p>National Activities: Mike Stefan, Director, SEPPC</p> <p>Compensation</p> <p>1. No actions proposed</p> <p>Regulations</p> <p>2. Publish Final Rule rescinding 7CFR301.89-Michael Stefan (PPQ)</p> <p>Operations</p> <p>3. Maintain effective export certification program to meet importing country's phytosanitary requirements. Cathy Enright (PPQ)</p>	<p>2. APHIS-PPD</p> <p>3. SPRO</p>	<p>1. 4th Quarter</p> <p>2. Ongoing</p>

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<u>Scientific Support:</u> Rick Bennett, National Program Leader, ARS		
1. No actions proposed		

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2002 ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

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Summary

The FY-2002 goal for the “Karnal Bunt Strategic Plan: Overcoming Karnal Bunt as a Quarantine Pest While Preserving Export Markets,” was simply to initiate the plan and complete planned actions for the first year. The 2002 Accomplish Report provides information and the status of each action undertaken during the fiscal year. USDA approved the plan on August 8, 2002, which continued the momentum started in April.

The plan has 5 primary components. They are coordination, communication, international activities, national activities, and scientific support. A USDA official was designated to provide leadership for each component. Further, each component was composed of specific actions to be completed or undertaken during FY-2002. Accountable officials were identified for each action item.

Progress was made in all areas of the plan during FY-2002. Dr. Jim Butler, Deputy Under Secretary, Marketing and Regulatory Programs was designated USDA Coordinator for Karnal Bunt Policy Issues. This selection ignited initiation of actions to address activities found in the strategic plan. Perhaps the most visible component of the plan is communication. A communication effort was undertaken locally through a number of public meetings and written information which provided information about the program; state level with information sharing; nationally with interested stakeholders, state officials, and industry associations; and with members of Congress. Stakeholders confirmed that USDA outreach and communication activities met their needs and provided information that was factual, timely, and relevant to the user. Communication activities provided the forum to support building a coalition of stakeholders representing the federal, state, industry, and academic communities.

The international activities component demonstrated it will be the most complex and challenging component of the five. All international activities actions, except the initiation of alternatives to the area freedom concept have been undertaken and will continue to complement 2003 actions. In addition, we plan to combine the KB management action with similar activities in the scientific support component. We understand the thrust of our effort in 2003 must be targeted toward international activities. National activities were well supported and much progress was made during FY-2002. We were fortunate we had the necessary support to publish regulation changes in a timely manner facilitating compensation payments and rule modifications. The operational line program had outstanding leadership fielding experienced personnel to satisfy the needs of the stakeholders. We also express our appreciation to those Agricultural Marketing Service, Tobacco and Cotton Graders that did such an outstanding job.

Research and methods development activities found in scientific support were undertaken or continued will be pursued through 2002. The scientific support component provided unforeseen program benefits through adaptation of optical scanner technology to expedite the processing of grain samples for bunted kernels and roaster technology as a post harvest treatment.

Assessment

In FY-2002, we received approval for and initiated the “Karnal Bunt Strategic Plan: Overcoming Karnal Bunt as a Quarantine Pest While Preserving Export Markets” and actions to support activities in FY-2003. We were successful in completing a number of planned activities in FY-2002 that laid the foundation for difficult tasks starting in FY-2003, specifically those in international activities. Further progress will depend on commitment by USDA; willingness of the U.S. and its foreign trading partners to modify their entry requirements; agreement among the states not to implement exterior quarantines; producer, handler, and export industry support; and acknowledging the potential loss of certain export markets.

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Goal: FY 2002- Initiate and or complete FY 2002 actions.

Year one of this plan, FY 2002 will be dedicated to a number of specific objectives. First, we will need to (1) communicate the strategic plan among Federal, State, and stakeholders to achieve a unified direction for overcoming Karnal bunt as a quarantine pest and to increase awareness of Karnal bunt issues and program activities; (2) provide the underpinning for future actions by initiating or completing actions identified for 2002, (3) review progress and when necessary identify additional actions or modify actions in future years.

ISSUE/LEADER/ACTIONS	COMPLETE BY	2002 ACCOMPLISHMENTS
<p><u>Coordination:</u> USDA</p> <p>1. Designate a USDA official for the coordination of USDA activities for planning and implementation of policies and procedures towards overcoming KB as a quarantine pest while preserving exports.</p> <p>2. Complete, distribute and implement strategic plan- Bob Spaide (PPQ)</p>	<p>1. 2nd Quarter</p> <p>2. 3/22/02</p>	<p>1. Late in FY-2001, the Office of the Secretary designated Helene Wright as the interim USDA Coordinator for Karnal bunt issues. On January 15, 2002, Dr. Jim Butler, Deputy Under Secretary, Marketing and Regulatory Programs was designated USDA Coordinator for Karnal Bunt Policy Issues.</p> <p>2. The first draft of the “Karnal Bunt Strategic Plan Overcoming KB as a Quarantine Pest While Preserving Export Markets,” was distributed for comment on March 6, 2002. After revisions and vetting the plan was approved USDA on August 2, 2002. The plan was distributed and posted on the KB website on September 16, 2002.</p>

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<p><u>Communication:</u> Meghan Thomas, Public Affairs Specialist, Legislative and Public Affairs, APHIS</p> <p>1. Schedule industry and Hill briefings- USDA Mission Areas</p> <p>2. Participate in National, Regional, and local industry meetings to provide information about the pathogen, disease etiology, and program activities. USDA Mission Areas</p> <p>3. Establish public relations rapid response capability to deal with new outbreak issues. – Meghan Thomas (LPA)</p> <p>4. Maintain KB websites- Joel Floyd (PPQ) and Meghan Thomas</p> <p>5. Maintain Hotline- 1888-661-8083- Bob Spaide (PPQ)</p>	<p>1. Ongoing</p> <p>2. Ongoing</p> <p>3. 3rd Quarter</p> <p>4. Ongoing</p> <p>5. Ongoing</p>	<p>1. Numerous briefings and meetings on the Hill and at USDA were held at the request of USDA and Congressional offices. Topics ranged from program updates, questions about compensation, and trade.</p> <p>2. In addition to the many meetings at USDA with stakeholders, staff participated in meetings and workshops in Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, California, New Mexico, Arizona, South Dakota, Washington, Florida, Montana, and Oregon. Approximately 18 grower meetings were held in North Texas throughout the year. The meetings and workshops addressed issues associated with the 2002 operational program and provided information about the direction of the strategic plan.</p> <p>3. Historically, APHIS Legislative and Public Affairs (LPA) have been positioned to provide the necessary onsite program support. In April 2002, the LPA Director had provided a plan for support if a new outbreak was detected. The plan included backup provisions for staff that maybe unavailable.</p> <p>4. The website has undergone continual updating through the 2002 crop season serving as an information source for program activities. During the summer of 2002 the site was updated daily to show the progress in the National Survey.</p> <p>5. The Hotline remained active through the crop year logging nearly 5 calls per month. Many of the calls were inquiring about the status of compensation, survey requirements within the regulated area, and certification requirements for regulated articles.</p>
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<p><u>Communication</u> (continued)</p> <p>6. Coordinate with States and industry public relations and news release information- Meghan Thomas (LPA)</p> <p>7 Develop and conduct a system for 1) timely and effective information sharing, 2) ensuring stakeholder collaboration and cooperation including fact sheets, and public service announcements. Meghan Thomas (LPA)</p>	<p>6. Ongoing</p> <p>7. 3rd Quarter</p>	<p>6. LPA worked very closely with states, particularly Texas officials in the preparation and coordination of news releases. Approximately 1500 posters were published and distributed providing contact numbers to address questions about the program. In addition, public service announcements, fact sheets, question and answer, alerts, outreach letters signed by Dr. Butler, and periodic updates were distributed.</p> <p>7. LPA evaluated its communication system for gathering and sharing information to ensure collaborator and stakeholder cooperation supported program activities. The system satisfies collaborator input and timely and effective information sharing. The 2003 program will be expanded to include communication through trade association media.</p>
<p><u>International Activities:</u> Robert Reimenschneider, Director, Grain and Feed Division, Foreign Agricultural Service</p> <p>1. Develop list of countries with KB AD requirements, conduct a qualitative assessment to categorize countries based on degree of difficulty in dealing with the country, wheat producer or not, importer or exporter of grain, and record of compliance with SPS agreement and prioritize list. Robert Reimenschneider (FAS)</p> <p>a. Prepare strategy by category and individual country for reducing restrictions imposed by country.</p> <p>2. Initiate negotiations, both official and industry with the government and industry representatives of at least one top priority country. Robert Reimenschneider (FAS)</p>	<p>1. 3rd Quarter</p> <p>1a. 4th Quarter</p> <p>2. 4th Quarter</p>	<p>1. USDA in collaboration with industry identified at least 45 countries with restrictions on wheat because of Karnal bunt. The actual number of countries is larger as the EU (15 member states) and Russia (Soviet block) were considered the regulation leaders for their respective "states." These countries were categorized and prioritized according to the criteria in 1.</p> <p>1a. A strategy was developed and implemented for category one countries. Currently Phytosanitary Issues Management, PPQ is completing information to address this category. Strategies for remaining countries will be developed in the 2nd quarter of 2003.</p> <p>2. Negotiations were initiated with a country in category one. We are hopeful work undertaken in 1a. will provide changes in some countries entry requirements.</p>

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<p><u>International Activities</u> (continued)</p> <p>3. Initiate negotiations with Mexico to harmonize KB restrictions. Alan Green (PPQ)</p> <p>4. Initiate work with North American and other trading partners to develop equivalent KB management programs as guidance to producers. Scott Redlin (PPQ)</p> <p>5. Maintain effective phytosanitary certification program to meet importing country's phytosanitary requirements. Alan Green (PPQ)</p> <p>6. Initiate evaluations of alternatives to the "area freedom" concept to facilitate the export of wheat, such systems approach to "area freedom" to meet importing countries requirements. Scott Redlin (PPQ)</p>	<p>3. 4th Quarter</p> <p>4. 4th Quarter</p> <p>5. Ongoing</p> <p>6. 4th Quarter</p>	<p>3. A number of meeting between Mexico and US official occurred throughout the last half of FY-2002 regarding harmonization of KB restrictions. Changes in the 7CFR319.59 will support convincing MX we are serious about harmonization and deregulation of KB. In addition, work was initiated through NAPPO as a charge to the Grain Panel during the October 2002 meeting for North American trading partners.</p> <p>4. This recommendation will be consolidated with the revision of the 3rd activity under Scientific Support.</p> <p>5. No unusual circumstances affecting phytosanitary certification were noted.</p> <p>6. No activity.</p>
<p><u>National Activities:</u> Mike Stefan, Director, SEPPC (PPQ)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Compensation</p> <p>1. Publish revision of August 6, 2001 compensation rule- Bob Spaide (PPQ)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a. Communicate provisions of rule to stakeholders through public meetings and outreach.</p> <p>2. Review existing compensation guidelines to ensure regulations are current. Bob Spaide (PPQ)</p>	<p>1. 2nd Quarter</p> <p>1a. 5/1/02</p> <p>2. 5/15/02</p>	<p>1. Docket number 01-112-1 regarding revisions to the August 6, 2001 Compensation Rule was published on May 1, 2002.</p> <p>1a. Public meetings were held with producers, handlers, and other stakeholders from Throckmorton, Archer and Young, and Baylor counties on May 14, 15, and 16, 2002, respectively.</p> <p>2. A review of the compensation regulations indicated deficiencies for providing compensation for those unprecedented situations, found in North Texas in 2001, for new outbreaks in previously non-regulated areas and to custom harvesters cutting in previously non-regulated fields.</p>

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<u>National Activities</u> (continued)		
3. Explore the possibility of Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) purchasing positive and/or spore negative grain for aid programs. Bob Spaide (PPQ)	3. 9/15/02	3. The direct purchase of KB positive grain for foreign aid programs is not consistent with the CCC Charter Act, Specific Powers of Corporation (Sec.714c.).
4. Determine if KB compensation issues could be managed by a crop insurance program. Mike Hand (FSA-RMA)	4. 6/15/02	4. The RMA crop insurance program addresses loss of production and or quality deficiency against established standards. Because KB has not demonstrated the ability to cause production losses and quality is not impacted below 3% infection, crop insurance does not seem to be a viable alternative to current compensation.
Regulations		
5. Revise policy for taking action on wheat as a contaminate from KB countries to the bunted kernel standard. Jim Smith, Assistant Director, Port Operations, PPQ	5. 2/1/02	5. On February 1, 2002, PPQ revised its import policy for taking action on wheat as a contaminate from countries with KB to the bunted kernel standard.
6. Revise 7CFR301.89 to reduce the number of regulated areas in NM, TX and CA quarantined because of contaminated seed planted in 1996 and update list of regulated/deregulated areas. Bob Spaide (PPQ)	6. 4 th Quarter	6. Docket number 02-037-1 regarding changes to regulated areas NM, AZ, and TX was forwarded from PPQ on September 10, 2002. CA fields did not qualify because of having known infected fields. This docket also contains changes reducing the size of the regulated area in North Texas. Interim Rule published October 3, 2002
7. Revise 7CFR301.89 utilizing updated technological, scientific, and operational information. Bob Spaide (PPQ)	7. 4 th Quarter	7. The final editing by APHIS to 02-056-1 revising the domestic quarantine began on September 9, 2002.
8. Revise 7CFR319.59 to harmonize requirements with 7CFR301.89 Bob Spaide/Wayne Burnett (PPQ)	8. 4 th Quarter	8. Docket number 02-057-1 is undergoing revision to ensure consistency with provisions that will be proposed in 7CFR301.89.
9. Prepare drafts of documents necessary to declare new emergencies. Steve Poe/Bob Spaide (PPQ)	9. 5/1/02	9. Drafts of documents required to declare an emergency outbreak were develop and approved on April 30, 2002. This documentation would be required to expedite compensation payments if new areas were found positive for KB.

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<p><u>National Activities</u> (continued)</p> <p>10. Initiate a study for the feasibility of implementing regulations for national standards for wheat, durum wheat and triticale seed. Barry Carpenter (AMS)</p> <p>11. Initiate a study for the feasibility of developing and applying of wheat grade and quality standards for KB. Jay Mitchell (GIPSA)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Operations</p> <p>12. Develop and implement an information management system capturing analyzing and reporting program data collected during field operations, and ensuring program effectiveness. Joel Floyd (PPQ)</p> <p>13. Complete and distribute updated KB field manual. Bob Spaide (PPQ)</p> <p>14. Revise the National Survey Plan: Russ McKinney (PPQ)</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. reduce the amount of time between sampling and analysis</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b. consider weather and climate data to prioritize sampling areas and sample analysis.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Economic Assessment</p> <p>15. Complete and distribute economic assessment of unilateral deregulation of KB- Gary Vocke (ERS)</p>	<p>10. 4th Quarter</p> <p>11. 4th Quarter</p> <p>12. 4th Quarter</p> <p>13. 3rd. Quarter</p> <p>14. 4/1/02</p> <p>15. 3rd Quarter</p>	<p>10. Federal Seed Act, Grain Standards, nor APHIS authorities provide for an enforceable standard. Industry has suggested that a seed standard for KB be developed that would not have regulatory significance if positive seed were detected. Currently, we only regulate seed from regulated areas.</p> <p>11. On 10/22/02, GIPSA submitted, "Options for Managing Karnal Bunt in the Official Inspection and Weighing System Following Deregulation." The current standards and measures found in United States Standards for Wheat 7CFR8102205 (c) & (d) (smuts in wheat) are sufficient to address Karnal bunt in wheat.</p> <p>12. PPQ contracted with REI for \$112,000 to develop an information management system for the Karnal bunt program. The Karnal Bunt Information System (KBIS) successfully came on line May 15 accepting 2002 data while integrating certain historical program data into the system. PPQ has extended the contract for additional work throughout FY-2003.</p> <p>13. The KB field manual was updated and distributed on April 18, 2002. The manual has been posted on the KB website.</p> <p>14. The National Survey Plan was revised and distributed on May 6, 2002. The plan has been posted on the KB website.</p> <p>15. ERS completed and published, "Economic Analysis of Ending the Issuance of Karnal Bunt Phytosanitary Wheat Export Certificates" in March 2002.</p>
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<p><u>Scientific Support:</u> Rick Bennett, National Program Leader, ARS</p> <p>1. Catalog existing risk assessments- Ron Sequeira (PPQ) 1a. CPHST to serve as clearing house to provide advice and guidance for PRA development.</p> <p>2. Initiate a risk assessment to identify the risk of spreading KB through wheat processing procedures. Ron Sequeira (PPQ)</p> <p>3. Develop and distribute best management practices for TX, AZ, and CA. Kitty Cardwell (CSREES)</p> <p>4. Continue studies to develop information needed to establish field spore threshold limits and geographical range limits for the disease. Rick Bennett (ARS)</p> <p>5. Continue studies to develop information regarding the viability and longevity of teliospores in soil. Rick Bennett (ARS)</p> <p>6. Continue studies to develop information to identify optimal temperature/humidity requirements for teliospore development. . Rick Bennett (ARS)</p>	<p>1. 2nd. Quarter</p> <p>2. 3rd Quarter</p> <p>3. 4th Quarter</p> <p>4. Ongoing</p> <p>5. Ongoing</p> <p>6. Ongoing</p>	<p>1. The existing Karnal bunt risk assessments were catalog by CPHST in March 2002.</p> <p>2. No activity</p> <p>3. Grant money has been made available for research in Texas. Unfortunately, the work has been delayed because of permit application problems and approval. For 2003, we intend to modify this activity to include KB best management practices.</p> <p>4. Study has been delayed but will be initiated in January 2003 in Arizona field plots. This is a cooperative study involving ARS, CDFA and APHIS. Study will be used to predict teliospore survival in other wheat producing areas. Influence of various soil parameters including moisture, temperature and humidity will be evaluated.</p> <p>5. A study was conducted to determine the longevity of teliospores in field plots in Arizona. This method provides an accurate measure of teliospore population decline in soils. The rate of decrease in germination was significantly greater for teliospores from irrigated plots than from non-irrigated plots.</p> <p>6. Study has been delayed but will be initiated in field trials in January 2003. Preliminary studies indicate teliospores germinate on soil surfaces with free moisture and high relative humidity at temps between 15-23C within 5 to 14 days. Significant infection requires cloudy conditions, rainfall, and cool temps.</p>
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<u>Scientific Support:</u> (continued) 7. Initiate development of new, cost effective control methods, including post harvest treatments and seed treatments. Rick Bennett (ARS)	7. 4 th Quarter	7. Seed treatments will be tested for efficacy as part of a cooperative effort involving ARS and APHIS. Preliminary studies suggest seed treatments by fungicides may have some efficacy in inhibiting teliospore germination. Work has been completed for the post-harvest treatment of positive grain using roaster technology. A report will be published shortly.
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KARNAL BUNT STRATEGIC PLAN
Overcoming Karnal Bunt as a Quarantine Pest
While Preserving Export Markets
2003 Accomplishment Report

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**Karnal Bunt Strategic Plan
December 12, 2003**

Summary

The FY-2003 goal for the “Karnal Bunt Strategic Plan: Overcoming Karnal Bunt as a Quarantine Pest While Preserving Export Markets,” was to complete negotiation with 25% of the foreign trading partners to remove additional declaration restrictions or 25% of trade requiring the additional declaration. The 2003 Accomplish Report provides information and the status of each action undertaken during the fiscal year.

Progress was made in all areas of the plan during FY-2003, although the goal was not met. Dr. Chuck Lambert, Deputy Under Secretary, Marketing and Regulatory Programs was designated USDA Coordinator for Karnal Bunt Policy Issues. He replaced Dr. Jim Butler who accepted the position of Deputy Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services.

USDA personnel continued to be active in their outreach and participation in issue related meetings. Personnel met with local, regional, and national stakeholders representing grain production, handling, and marketing to discuss and provide updates regarding Karnal bunt. In addition, Department personnel responded to Congressional inquiries about rule changes and compensation. PPQ continues to be positioned to respond inquiries and information needs by maintaining its webpage and hot line. PPQ sponsored the 2003 Karnal Bunt Workshop in Oklahoma City on October 8, 2003.

The international activities component continues to be the most complex and challenging component of the five topic areas. The thrust of the 2004 activities will need to address international targeted actions. Specifically, progress needs to be made relative to international outreach initiatives and coalition building with foreign trading partners. Progress in this area is critical if the plan is to be successful.

There has been progress in national program activities, although many proposed actions will not be completed until the second quarter of 2004.

Research and methods development activities found under scientific support will continued through 2004.

Goal: FY 2003- Complete negotiation with 25% of the foreign trading partners to remove additional declaration restrictions or 25% of trade requiring the additional declaration.

This year, year two of the strategic plan will focus on: continuing discussions with category one trading partners to reduce the number of countries requiring the additional declaration; initiating discussions with category two and three countries; facilitating future negotiations with new research information, undertaking initiatives with international organizations, i.e. North American Plant Protection Organization, coalition building with Mexico and South Africa, outreach to major trading partners, and the implementing of new technology in the National Survey. Effective and factual communication with trading partners and industry stakeholders will remain critical through the plan.

ISSUE/LEADER/ACTIONS	COMPLETE BY	2003 ACCOMPLISHMENTS
<p>Coordination: Dr. Chuck Lambert, Deputy Undersecretary, Marketing & Regulatory Programs</p> <p>1. Summarize and prepare a report of 2002 accomplishments.- Bob Spaide (PPQ)</p> <p>2. Coordinate an annual assessment of the strategy to assure that the strategy is on track and coordinate preparation of adjustments to the strategic plan. Bob Spaide (PPQ)</p>	<p>1. 1st Quarter</p> <p>2. 2nd Quarter</p>	<p>1. The 2002 Accomplishment Report was distributed and posted on the Karnal Bunt Web page on December 12, 2002.</p> <p>1. PPQ sponsored a Karnal Bunt Workshop on October 29, 2002 in Oklahoma City, OK to discuss 2002 accomplishments and to review modifications to plan for 2003.</p>

<p><u>Communication:</u> Meghan Thomas, Public Affairs Specialist, Legislative and Public Affairs, APHIS</p> <p>1. Schedule industry and Hill briefings- USDA Mission Areas</p> <p>2. Participate in National, Regional, and local industry meetings to provide information about the pathogen, disease etiology, and program activities. USDA Mission Areas</p> <p>3. Maintain public relations rapid response capability to deal with emerging issues. – Meghan Thomas (LPA)</p> <p>4. Maintain KB websites- Joel Floyd (PPQ) and Meghan Thomas (LPA)</p>	<p>1. Ongoing</p> <p>2. Ongoing</p> <p>3. Ongoing</p> <p>4. Ongoing</p>	<p>1. There was little activity regarding this issue during 2003. However, industry and Hill representatives either called or visited USDA officials throughout the year. The Under Secretary's office hosted Congressional officials and industry representation grain producers, exporters, and custom harvesters to discuss KB issues. Issues discussed were primarily about foreign market access and compensation.</p> <p>2. USDA officials participated in a number of industry related meetings through the country to address KB related concerns and issues. Principally, the concerns regarded the status of the strategic plan, availability of compensation, and international market access for wheat.</p> <p>3. LPA maintained contact KB management and operation personnel throughout the year ensuring capacity to rapidly deal with emerging issues</p> <p>4. The website was slightly modified to conform with APHIS standards.</p>
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<p><u>Communication</u> (continued)</p> <p>5. Maintain Hotline- 1888-661-8083- Bob Spaide (PPQ)</p> <p>6. Coordinate with States, industry public relations organizations, trade associations in the development and distribution of news release information - Meghan Thomas (LPA)</p> <p>7. Maintain system for 1) timely and effective information sharing, 2) ensuring stakeholder collaboration and cooperation including fact sheets, and public service announcements. Meghan Thomas (LPA)</p>	<p>5. Ongoing</p> <p>6. Ongoing</p> <p>7. Ongoing</p>	<p>5. The Hotline was maintained throughout the year and averaged approximately 3 calls per month. Callers concerns included status of regulation changes, compensation, operational procedures and compensation.</p> <p>6. In 2003 there was not an immediate need to prepare KB news releases. LPA continues to maintain its network with industry and others should the need for news releases arise.</p> <p>7. LPA maintains the capacity to rapidly prepare and disseminate program related information.</p>
<p><u>International Activities:</u> Robert Reimenschneider, Director, Grain and Feed Division, Foreign Agricultural Service</p> <p>1. Based on the list of countries developed in 2002 prepare strategy by category and individual country for reducing restrictions imposed by country. Robert Reimenschneider (FAS)</p> <p>2. Initiate negotiations, both official and industry with foreign government and industry representatives in all countries in the first category. Robert Reimenschneider (FAS)</p>	<p>1. 2nd Quarter</p> <p>2. 3rd Quarter</p>	<p>1. FAS convened meetings with industry and regulatory agencies to develop strategy for identifying and listing countries with KB import restrictions. Strategies were developed for categories 1 and 2, but strategies for 3-5 will remain an issue in 2004.</p> <p>2. Communication with 11 countries in category 1 from the total list of 45 provided information that 5 countries did not have KB restrictions for US wheat. Of these 5, 3 (Taiwan, Indonesia, and Honduras) have confirmed their entry requirements.</p>

<p><u>International Activities</u> (continued)</p> <p>3. Initiate communication/negotiations both official and industry with the government and industry representatives with countries in categories two and three. Robert Reimenschneider (FAS)</p> <p>4. Conclude negotiations with Mexico to harmonize KB restrictions. Alan Green (PPQ)</p> <p>5. Participate in international meetings to provide KB information and updates and emphasize that KB is a minor disease of no quarantine significance. i.e. NAPPO USDA Task Force</p> <p>6. Maintain effective phytosanitary certification program to meet importing country's phytosanitary requirements. Alan Green (PPQ)</p>	<p>3. 3rd Quarter</p> <p>4. 2nd Quarter</p> <p>5. Ongoing</p> <p>6. Ongoing</p>	<p>3. Communication with 6 countries in category 2 revealed that 3 of them do not have KB requirements. Confirmation is pending. Contact with category 3 countries remains an issue for 2004.</p> <p>4. PPQ officials met with SARGARPA on June 27, 2003 to discuss the strategic plan and revision of 301.89 and 319.59. The Proposed Rule for 301.89 was delivered to Mexico for review and comment on July 8, 2003. No comments were received. Mexico continues to seek "additional" information in order to assess KB issues related to wheat imports from California. The harmonization of KB restrictions and exporting of CA wheat to MX will continue as an issue in 2003.</p> <p>5. We understand sidebar meetings have occurred throughout the year between Mexican and US officials with no reported progress. KB did not surface as an issue for consideration by NAPPO. There seems to be little interest unless new information is available to consider.</p> <p>6. There have been no reported breakdowns in the KB phytosanitary certification program and its ability to meet importing requirements of importing countries.</p>
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<p><u>International Activities</u> (continued)</p> <p>7. Continue evaluations of alternatives to the area freedom concept to facilitate the export of wheat, such systems approach to “area freedom” to meet importing countries requirements. Scott Redlin (PPQ)</p> <p>8. Participate in International Phytopathological meeting in New Zealand Rick Bennett (ARS)</p>	<p>7. Ongoing</p> <p>8. 2nd Quarter</p>	<p>7. No reported progress</p> <p>8. USDA was represented at the 2003 International Congress of Plant Pathology (ICPP) held in Christchurch, NZ. USDA displayed a poster and provided a presentation during an evening session. Questions posed by scientists dealt with economics of trade not with concern about production losses or pathogen severity.</p>
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<p><u>National Activities:</u> Mike Stefan, Director, SEPPC (PPQ)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Compensation</p> <p>1. Update current compensation regulations. Bob Spaide (PPQ)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Regulations</p> <p>2. Publish revision 7CFR301.89-3, to reduce the number of regulated areas in NM, TX and CA quarantined because of contaminated seed planted in 1996 and update list of regulated/deregulated areas. Bob Spaide (PPQ)</p> <p>3. Publish revision of 7CFR301.89 utilizing updated technological and operational information. Bob Spaide (PPQ)</p>	<p>1. 2nd Quarter</p> <p>2. 1st Quarter</p> <p>3. 1st Quarter</p>	<p>1. A review of our compensation regulations was completed in April of 2003. We prepared 2 proposals to update and revise 7CFR301.89-15. The first, an interim rule to compensate custom harvesters involved in the 2001 North Texas detections. The second, a proposed rule would extend the provisions of the May 1, 2002 rule for specific circumstances through 2005. Both work plans have been returned to APHIS for rule preparation. We anticipate publication before the 2nd quarter of 2004.</p> <p>2. An Interim Rule revising the regulated areas in Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas was published on October 3, 2002. The Final Rule was published on October 10, 2003. There was no change in the regulated area in California as the conditions there were different then those in the other states.</p> <p>3. A Proposed Rule revising 7CFR301.89 was published on July 8, 2003. The comment period ended on September 6, 2003. The Final rule is under preparation.</p>
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<p><u>National Activities</u> (continued)</p> <p>4. Revise 7CFR319.59 to harmonize requirements with 7CFR301.89 Bob Spaide/Wayne Burnett (PPQ)</p> <p>5. Initiate discussions with National Association of State Departments (NASDA) of Agriculture and National Plant Board (NPB) to obtain agreement regarding the implementation of exterior state quarantines for KB. Bobby Acord (APHIS)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Operations</p> <p>6. Revise the National Survey Plan to incorporate information obtained from climatological data gathered in 2002. Joel Floyd (PPQ)</p>	<p>4. 1st Quarter</p> <p>5. 2nd Quarter</p> <p>6. 1st Quarter</p>	<p>4. 7CFR301.59 has been prepared as an Interim Rule and has received OMB clearance. The rule has been returned to APHIS for completion. Publication of this rule is of high priority for the industry and should be given priority as it's a "low hanging fruit" accomplishment with significance importance.</p> <p>5. Karnal bunt has been discussed during a number of scheduled NASDA teleconferences. NASDA representatives have indicated that they wish to keep options open consistent with states rights decisions. Additional work will need to be undertaken during 2003 to continue this effort.</p> <p>6. Staff has reviewed options for incorporating climatological data into the National Survey program. The data is beneficial in forecasting likely high risk areas for occurrence of the disease, but poses operational problems for implementation. These problems include convincing producers in potential high risk areas to allow sampling to occur.</p> <p>Another use of the data would be to determine areas where the disease could not or would not occur and reduce or eliminate sampling in those areas. So far states have not conducted such analysis.</p>
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<p><u>Scientific Support:</u> Rick Bennett, National Program Leader, ARS</p> <p>1. Continue to be the repository for cataloging existing risk assessments and clearing house to provide advice and guidance for PRA development. Ron Sequeira (PPQ)</p> <p>2. Complete the preparation a risk assessment identifying the risk of spreading KB through wheat processing procedures. Ron Sequeira (PPQ)</p> <p>3. Initiate risk assessment using climatological models to determine host range characteristics for KB. Ron Sequeira (PPQ)</p> <p>4. Update and distribute information for KB best management practices. Kitty Cardwell (CSREES)</p>	<p>1. Ongoing</p> <p>2. 3rd Quarter</p> <p>3. 2nd Quarter</p> <p>4. 3rd Quarter</p>	<p>1. CPHST continues to catalog KB pest risk assessments and information used for such assessments.</p> <p>2. CPHST has completed a final draft of a risk assessment regarding the risk of spread associated with wheat for processing. During the October 15, 2003 KB Conference it was agreed that CPHST would share the draft with industry representatives to validate nodes of the model before finalizing.</p> <p>3. Operations questioned the value of undertaking this effort and how results would support strategic plan goals. Initiation of this task will be reviewed to support needs for progress under International Activities.</p> <p>4. Progress has been slow as special local needs and historical cropping practices in North Texas tend to reduce interest by producers. We understand that another initiative is underway by interests in Texas to again review alternatives for cropping practices.</p>
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<p><u>Scientific Support</u> (continued)</p> <p>5. Continue studies to develop information needed to establish field spore threshold limits and geographical range limits for the disease. Rick Bennett (ARS)</p>	<p>5. Ongoing</p>	<p>5. Studies are ongoing to determine if there are specific environmental requirements that limit the establishment and spread potential of Karnal bunt of wheat. Relate this to the potential risk associated with the importation of milling wheat contaminated with teliospores of <i>T. indica</i>.</p> <p>Studies are underway to examine the spatial distribution and survival of teliospores from fields in Texas determined to be KB positive and determine any relationship between teliospore survival and soil type. Studies are also underway to develop improved methodology to detect <i>T. indica</i> in infected wheat spikes and grain samples. Methodologies are underway to quantify genetic resistance in plant and teliospore concentration in unknown soil samples using real-time PCR.</p>
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<p><u>Scientific Support</u> (continued)</p> <p>6. Continue studies to develop information regarding the viability and longevity of teliospores in soil. Rick Bennett (ARS)</p>	<p>6. Ongoing</p>	<p>6. Studies are ongoing to determine the longevity of teliospores in the soil under natural conditions. Studies are ongoing to determine the relationship between the number of teliospores in the soil and the occurrence of Karnal bunt in the field. Relate this information to potential contamination levels in U.S. export wheat shipments.</p> <p>Microclimate data continues to be collected to determine those specific factors that are favorable to host infection and disease development. To date, large numbers of teliospores added to the soil have failed to produce infection under natural conditions. Repeated 4 seasons</p> <p>Studies are still ongoing to develop the methods needed to determine the relationship between the number of teliospores in the soil and the level of disease produced. To date, high levels of teliospores added to the soil with misting and shading applied during heading has not produced infection in the field. Repeated 4 seasons.</p>
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<p><u>Scientific Support</u> (continued)</p> <p>7. Continue studies to develop information to identify optimal temperature/humidity requirements for teliospore development. Rick Bennett (ARS)</p>	<p>7. Ongoing</p>	<p>7. Research focuses on the effects of actual soil temperature profiles from different wheat growing regions in the world on teliospore germination between the time of planting and host susceptibility under different moisture conditions. Study is currently ongoing. Trends observed in data analyzed to date suggests that at temperatures similar to those in Mexico, Italy, and Arizona, at surface soil moisture levels of less than 10%, teliospores do not germinate early in the season, however, at higher soil moisture levels, a great proportion of teliospores germinate well before the host susceptibility period. Similar trends are observed under UK, Hungarian, and Norwegian conditions. Cooler climatic conditions affect the germination rate, but also the length of the growing season.</p> <p>Infective sporidia, applied directly to emerging wheat spikes, at different times during the night, failed to produce infection under natural field conditions, however, boot injection in the field with the same inoculum produce high levels of infection. Repeated 2 seasons.</p>
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<p><u>Scientific Support</u> (continued)</p> <p>8. Continue work on the development of new, cost effective control methods, including post harvest treatments and seed treatments. Rick Bennett (ARS)</p>	<p>8. Ongoing</p>	<p>8. Common and experimental wheat seed treatments were evaluated under field conditions in Arizona fields and simulated field conditions in three separate treatment experiments. Some of the fungicides reduced and/or delayed germination in some experiments. Overall, the results indicate there may be little practical value for current seed treatments to control eventual germination of <i>T. indica</i> after planting infected treated seeds.</p>
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